

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06212 252322Z

15

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SUMMARY: PANAMA RATIFIED OCTOBER 24 THE CONVENTION ON THE BAN OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA. UNDER TERMS OF THE RATIFICATION RESOLUTION, THE CONVENTION BECOMES EFFECTIVE IN ALL THE NATIONAL TERRITORY INCLUDING THE CANAL ZONE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES (NACR) APPROVED IN ITS ENTIRETY THURSDAY (OCTOBER 24) THE CONVENTION OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE BAN OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA (OPANAL). PANAMA HAD SIGNED THE CONVENTION IN MEXICO CITY ON JULY 9, 1973 AND IT WAS APPROVED THAT SAME DAY BY THE EXECUTIVE ORGAN OF OPANAL. THE NACR WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SENSE OF THE RESOLUTION STATED ALL NATIONAL TERRITORY INCLUDING THE CANAL ZONE. IT CITED ARTICLE 3 OF THE PANAMANIAN CONSTITUTION STATING THAT "THE NATIONAL TERRITORY CAN NEVER BE CEDED, TRANSFERRED OR ALIENATED, NOT TEMPORARILY NOR PARTIALLY TO ANOTHER STATE." ALSO, IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT "THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA."

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 06212 252322Z

IN ADDITION, ARTICLE 22 OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO WAS

CITED, ESTABLISHING OPANAL AS THE ORGANISM TO OVERSEE THE PROSCRIPTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS IN THE AAATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SIGNATORY "INCLUDING THE SO NAMED PANAMA CANAL ZONEM"

2. THE RESOLUTION READ: "TO APPROVE IN ALL ITS PARTS THE CONVENTION ON PREROGATIVES AND IMMUNITIES OF OPANAL, LEAVING NO DOUBT THAT ITS APPLICATION WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN ALL OF ITS (PANAMA'S) TERRITORY, REAFFIRMING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PANAMA." THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED BY CEFERINO HERNANDEZ OF LLANA ABAJO, LOS SANTOS PROVINCE. THE CONVENTION WAS EXPLAINED BY PEDRO BRIN MARTINEZ AND SIMON QUIROS GUARDIA OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. THE PHRASE "REAFFIRMING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF PANAMA" WAS ADDED TO THE ORIGINAL MOTION BY SUGGESTION OF VICTOR CORRALES NUNEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE NACR FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THE MOTION OTHER THAN STATEMENTS ON PANAMA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL ZONE.
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